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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to produce an accurate account of the origin and development of the Pan American Games. A further purpose was to collect, organize, and systematically compile the results of competition for each festival, and to identify some noteworthy incidents in each series of games. The document first explains that the idea of the games originated when the Olympic Games schedule for Tokyo in 1940 could not be held. It states that the games were modeled after the Olympic Games and, in general, Olympic competition rules and regulations were to be followed. The 33 countries eligible to participate in the games are listed, and it is explained why the first series of games was not held until 1951. Since then, the games have been held every four years, the year before the Olympics. The document looks at each of the series of games individually in terms of location, number of participants, number of spectators, records set and broken, and other noteworthy incidents. (PB)

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THE HISTORICAL ASPECTS OF THE PAN AMERICAN GAMES

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The purpose of this study was to produce an accurate and factual account of the origin and development of the Pan American Games. A further purpose was to collect, organize, and systematically compile the results of competition for each festival and to identify some of the noteworthy incidents in each series of Games.

There were several reasons for initiating the Pan American Games. The organizers believed that friendly athletic competition would foster inter-American understanding, as the Olympic Games had done in world-wide competition. Leaders thought the Games would advance amateur sports and promote goodwill among countries. Also, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) suggested that Regional Games should be organized in various parts of the world, to supplement the Olympic program.

When the 1940 Olympic Games, scheduled for Tokyo could not be held, the interest in the Pan American Games was brought to life. After considerable correspondence and discussion, the Comite Olympico Argentino took the initiative and called a meeting of all the countries in the Western Hemisphere at Buenos Aires in 1940. It was in Buenos Aires where the National Olympic representatives from 16 countries held their organizational meeting. After 3 days of study which was marked by a friendly sporting spirit, the Constitution and By-Laws were adopted and it was decided to institute a set of Pan American Games at Buenos Aires in 1942.

Avery Brundage, President of the United States Olympic Association and Vice-President of the IOC, was chosen President of the Pan American Sporting Committee at the 1940 meeting. Brundage was the only one attending the meeting in Buenos Aires who was not Latin American, and he had the honor of being elected President.

Briefly, the plan was this: The Pan American Games were to be modeled after the Olympic Games and in general, Olympic Rules and Regulations were to be applied. These Games were to be celebrated every four years, one year prior to the Olympic Games. As described by some authorities the Pan American Games are

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"The Olympics of the Western Hemisphere." "Pan" is a prefix meaning "all" and the Pan American Games are "All-American", taking in North, Central and South American nations. And communication includes the four major languages of the Western Hemisphere--English, Spanish, Portuguese and French.

The official events on the program are similar to the Olympics, except there are no Winter Games. The program includes the following sports: (1) Athletics (track & field), (2) baseball, (3) basketball, (4) boxing, (5) cycling, (6) equestrian, (7) fencing, (8) field hockey, (9) football (soccer), (10) gymnastics, (11) judo, (11) rowing, (13) shooting: rifle & pistol, (14) shooting: skeet, (15) swimming, diving, water polo, (16) tennis, (17) volleyball, (18) weight lifting, (19) wrestling, (20) yachting, (21) canoeing and (22) softball. Two exhibition sports may be scheduled. Also, the festival includes cultural programs of art, music, education and dance.

Among the thirty-three countries in the Western Hemisphere, those eligible are Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda, Bolivia, Brazil, British Honduras, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Ecuador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Netherland Antilles, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, Surinan, Trinidad & Tobago, USA, Uruguay, Venezuela, Virgin Islands.

Because of World War II, the 1942 Buenos Aires Games could not be held; a tentative date of 1946 was set, but this date, too, was discarded. A Second Congress of the Pan American Sporting Committee was called by President Brundage in London during the 1948 Olympics. Brundage was re-elected President, and it was decided to stage the First Pan American Games in Buenos Aires in 1951. Dr. Rodolfo Valenzuela was chosen President of the Argentine Organizing Committee for the Games. Valenzuela, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Argentine, was the leading figure in the Pan American movement.

The quadrennial meeting of the Pan American Sports Organization was set for the week during which the Pan American Games were held. At that time, officers were elected, some rules for the governing body were adopted, and various other items of business were conducted.

It was agreed that the permanent headquarters of the Pan American Sports Organization would be established in Mexico City, capital of the Republic of Mexico. Enrique C. Aguirre was named Chancellor of the Pan American Sports Organization.

The 1951 Pan American Games, Buenos Aires

Beginning in 1951, the Pan American Games were inaugurated at Buenos Aires, Argentina, and the ceremonies had all the pomp and pagentry of the Olympic Games.

More than 100,000 sports fans assembled at River Platt Stadium for the inaugural ceremonies. There were 2,513 athletes from 22 nations of the Western Hemisphere. President Juan Peron of Argentina greeted the assembled athletes as "brother sportsmen of America." Peron asked that the Games be held in the spirit of the ancient Greeks as a "competition of gentlemen" with winners and losers taking their lot with true sportsmanship. President Brundage, head of the Pan American Sports Organization, addressed the audience in both English and Spanish which created an atmosphere for goodwill and understanding.

Because these were initial Games, there were no existing records; thus, during the days of intensive competition, each title holder or winner of an event was also setting a Pan American record. A special record was set by John H. Davis, a weightlifter from the United States, who won the heavyweight title and set a new world record of 1,062½ pounds in three lifts.

Since it is a policy of the International Olympic Committee not to recognize the ranking of countries by the number of points amassed during the Olympic Games, this pattern was established for the Pan American Games. However, in the unofficial scoring Argentina finished with the highest number of points during the festival, thus capturing the First Pan American Games title while the United States took second place honors.

The 1955 Pan American Games, Mexico City

The 1955 Games were held in Mexico City where 2,583 athletes representing twenty-one nations participated in the second celebration. The athletes entered the competition unprepared for the serious effects of altitude poisoning, thus in the rarefied air 7,600 feet above sea level, scores of finely trained athletes from the low lands dropped like wounded after battle. However, despite the altitude problem, world records were broken, and, as a result, the sports festival gained tremendous prestige and world prominence. Also, one of the most bitter controversies in Pan American history occurred in 1955 during the equestrian competition. The controversy developed between a Mexican official and the manager of the United States equestrian team; the dispute was finally settled by a compromise: that all the faults of all the riders would be averaged and that each rider would be debited with the same number of faults.

Pan American records fell in many events on the program in the 1955 Games. One sensational performance followed another as new records were established. One of the most startling performances was the feat of Louis Jones of the United States, who, while racing the metric quarter-mile, took a gasping lunge for the tape, lost his balance, was felled by anoxia, then lost consciousness. Jones lay

sprawled on the cinder track unaware that he had broken the world's record with a time of 45.4 seconds.

Brazil's Adhemar da Silva, 1952 Olympic champion, propelled himself 54 feet, 4 inches in the hop, step, and jump to set a new world record for one of the great achievements in international competition. The Brazilian champion bettered his Pan American record by more than 4 feet, and his Olympic mark by 13 inches.

In 1955, the Pan American Sports Organization announced the awarding of the 1959 Games to Cleveland, Ohio, and Douglas F. Roby of the United States was elected president of PASO. The financial plan proposed by the Cleveland Organizing Committee did not materialize, however; as a result, Cleveland relinquished the Third Series of Games. Without a host city and with only two years remaining to make the necessary preparations for the athletic event, the very life of the Pan American Games was threatened with possible extinction. Guatemala City and Rio de Janeiro, chosen first and second alternates, respectively, both abandoned their rights as host cities.

At the Second Special Congress of the Pan American Sports Organization on August 3, 1957, in San Jose, Costa Rica, the 1959 Games were awarded to Chicago. This decision ended long months of anxiety and the difficult fight to overcome the circumstances which threatentd the extinction of the Games.

The 1959 Pan American Games, Chicago

At the opening ceremonies of the 1959 Games at Soldier Field, the Third Pan American Games were opened by Dr. Milton Eisenhower, brother of the President, with a sparce crowd of 40,000 -- the smallest in Pan American history. There were 25 nations and 2,263 contestants taking part in the opening day festival.

The Third Series of Games lacked much of the spectator appeal of the 1955 Mexico City Games because of the hot August weather and United States sports fans' preoccupation with baseball. However, the 1959 Chicago Games were conducted in the true Pan American spirit. The city of Chicago and United States Olympic officials deserve much credit for the excellent manner in which they organized and administered the 1959 Games with only two years in which to prepare for the celebration. Two cycling incidents occurred: one was a protest that the United States cyclist had been pushed illegally by the starter; the other occurred when the winner, a last minute substitute, was unknown to the official scorer. These incidents were quickly resolved. The pentathlon contest had mix-ups, protests, and criticisms of the handling of the event which created excitement during the competitive phase of the program and seriously strained the patience of contestants, but when the event was concluded the incident was forgotten.

At the Congress of the Pan American Sports Organization meeting held prior to the opening of the Games in Chicago, some important business was transacted. General Jose de J. Clark of Mexico succeeded Douglas F. Roby of the United States who has served as president of the PASO from 1955 to 1959. Mr. Roby's term of office ended with the close of the Games in Chicago.

Other important action by the PASO Congress, included the limitation of entries in the individual events in track and field, as well as those in swimming and diving, to two per nation with no substitutions allowed.

The 1959 Chicago Games were best described in a Sports Illustrated article entitled: "Despite All, A Successful Show."

The 1963 Pan American Games, Sao Paulo

Prior to the beginning of the 1963 festival to be held in Sao Paulo, there was much speculation that the city of Sao Paulo was not properly prepared; others reasoned that officials would be forced to cancel or postpone the celebration. Because of a late start, the Brazilians used a task force of 2,500 people working around the clock to get ready for the sports carnival. It was further speculated that the United States team would monopolize the victories and create ill feelings among the other nations, instead of goodwill as intended.

Fortunately, this was not the case: the 1963 Games were conducted in the Pan American spirit of sportsmanship, and there was no unfavorable reaction to the United States domination of competition.

More than 80,000 people cheered the Parade of Nations in the opening ceremonies of the Fourth Pan American Games at Pacaembu Stadium in Sao Paulo, Brazil. There were 1,771 athletes representing twenty-two countries who participated in twenty-one sports listed on the program.

Nearly every existing record in track and field events was shattered during the Fourth Pan American Games; and in aquatic competition, every existing record was erased by the male swimmers of the United States. Also, in swimming competition for women, the representatives of the United States won every swimming race and established six new records in the process. The 1963 Games were well-conducted and were devoid of any major incidents. Several sports writers and officials were of the opinion that the Fourth Pan American Games were an outstanding success and the greatest ever celebrated in the history of the Games.

At a meeting of the Congress of the Pan American Sports Organization held prior to the Sao Paulo Games, a matter of great importance was resolved-- that is, the selection of a site for the fifth celebration, which would insure continuation

of this intercontinental sports festival.

There were three cities seriously soliciting the honor, and Winnipeg, Canada bowing to Sao Paulo in balloting for the 1963 Games, was the only North American city to extend an invitation for the fifth celebration. Representatives of each nation presented the candidacy of his city, describing the facilities and arrangements for conducting the event if awarded the honor of serving as host city. Thus Winnipeg, the capital of the province of Manitoba, was selected as the first city to host the festival in Canada; never before had the Games been held this far north. Besides selecting the site for the 1967 Games, General Jose de Jesus Clark of Mexico was re-elected President of the Pan American Sports Organization. Later in his term of office, Major Silvio de Magalhaes Padilha of Brazil served as the interim president following the death of General Clark.

The 1967 Pan American Games, Winnipeg

The Fifth Pan American Games celebrated impressively on Sunday, July 23, 1967, despite a heavy rainstorm. More than 25,000 spectators jammed the Winnipeg Stadium to witness the opening ceremony and to cheer Prince Philip, representing Queen Elizabeth, as he stood bareheaded throughout the downpour to greet the athletes of the countries as they paraded in front of the reviewing stand and then assembled on the field.

From twenty-eight nations, there were 2,300 taking part in the ceremony, as the athletes marched through the rain in their parade finery and just when the Canadian delegation appeared, last in line because it was the host country, the sun broke through the clouds and provided a shining finish to the rituals.

Before the 1967 Games opened, the Pan American Sports Organization (PASO) held its formal meetings and selected Cali, Colombia, as the site for the VIth festival. Cali, a city of 800,000 was to host the Games in late summer of 1971

The United States was the only nation to enter a full complement of athletes in the Winnipeg sports attraction. There were 400 competitors taking part in the twenty-one sports program for both men and women, while the coaches, managers, trainers, administrative staff, and medical services personnel increased the United States delegation to 566 memebers.

In soccer football, Mexico defeated Bermuda 4-0 in an incredible overtime match, while Trinidad-Tobago bested Canada to capture third place honors. The United States soccer football team failed to qualify for the title playoff series.

Pan American records were broken in several track events and in field events, with one record being established in the 500,000 meter walk as the event was held for the first time. The record performances were registered by United States athletes and virtually all were comparable to Olympic standards. Some of the

triumphs were close to world record performances such as John Carlos' time of 20.5 seconds in the 200 meters, Lee Evans winning the 400 meters in 44.9 seconds, Earl McCullough's clocking of 13.4 in the 110 meter hurdles, Ralph Boston's leap of 27'2½" in the long jump, Ed Caruthers scaling 7'[illegible]¼" in the high jump, and Randy Matson's toss of 65'1" which was a Pan American shot put record.

The United States dominated the sports of athletics (track and field), swimming and diving, fencing, gymnastics, judo, rowing, shooting, weightlifting, wrestling and yachting, while also capturing titles in such team sports as baseball, men's basketball, men's and women's volleyball and water polo.

The 1971 Pan American Games, Cali

Sports enthusiasts crowded Cali's attractive stadium for the colorful ceremonies in the Sixth Pan American Games on July 30, 1971. The excellent competitions were conducted in almost perfect weather donditions, and as the news media reported, the Colombians were the most enthusiastic sports fans in the history of the Western Hemispheric Championships.

Thirty nations named a record number of 4,150 athletes to participate in an overall program of 20 athletic events. The previous high of 2,583 athletes at Mexico City was far exceeded in the Cali Games.

At a meeting of the Pan American Sports Organization held prior to the opening of the Games in Cali, some significant decisions were made by the officials. Jose Beracasa of Caracas, Venezuela, was elected president of the Pan American Sports Organization succeeding Major Silvio de Magalhaes Padilha of Brazil, who was the interim president following the death of General Jose de Jesus Clark of Mexico.

Argentina retained its title as champion in field hockey by defeating Mexico 1-0 in the championship game. In eight team sports on the Pan American Games program, Cuba won three titles in namely baseball as well as men's and women's volleyball; Brazil captured the men's and women's basketball championships; Argentina took the soccer and field hockey crowns; while the United States retained its title in water polo.

The United States swimming team won 14 of 15 races, but Jorge Delgado, a young Ecuador swimmer, prevented a clean sweep by winning the gold medal in the 200 meters butterfly event.

Three world records were established during the 1971 Pan American Games. Pedro Perex of Cuba triple jumped 57'1"; the United States 4 x 200 meters freestyle relay team set a new mark with a 7:45.8 clocking; and in the center fire pistol team event the United States quartet scored 2,353 points out of a possible 2,400.

Although the United States dominated many events on the program, the most disappointing development was the elimination of the men's basketball team in the preliminary rounds. Also, the men's track and field, men's swimming, men's and women's gymnastics, weightlifting, shooting and wrestling were the individual sports in which the United States athletes proved most successful.

The closing ceremony of the Sixth Pan American Games was held on August 13, 1971, in Cali Stadium. Colombian sports fans were most enthusiastic about the Western Hemispheric Festival which had attracted the largest number of competitors in the history of the Games while the officials representing 30 nations shared the success of the Cali Games. An audience in the jam-packed stadium for the colorful closing ceremony was inspired by the solemnity and importance of the occasion.

An overall noteworthy accomplishment which has occurred from the time of the early Pan American festivals to the present series of Games is worthy of inclusion here: The Pan American Games have contributed to the general goodwill and understanding among the nations of the Americas. Many Americans believe that these Games--involving more than 4,000 co testants from thirty-three eligible nations, regardless of race, creed, sex, custom, color, or political affiliation -- have provided a common medium which has overcome the inevitable barriers. Sports are an integral part of the cultures of these peopie and serve as a force unifying the American countries through friendly rivalry and genuine understanding.

The 1975 Pan American Games

The Seventh Pan American Games will be one of the largest sports events ever held in the Americas, larger even than the Olympics held in Los Angeles. With the exception of the 1968 Olympics, the Seventh Pan American Games to be staged in Mexico City from October 12-26, 1975 will probably be the most significant international sports assemblage ever held in the Western Hemisphere.

Jose Beracasa of Venezuala is the current President of the Pan American Sports Organization responsible for the overall coordination of the Games scheduled for Mexico City, while Mario Vazguez Rana, President of Mexico's Pan American Sports Committee is responsible for the organizing group for the facilities, committees and functioning of the Games.

Rana has expressed the feeling of his people: "Mexico is anxious to stage the 1975 Games, because we believe this will be the most exciting sports festival ever held." Many of Mexico's leaders are saying: "It is our chance to show that Mexico is a great nation making immense progress. Hosting the athletic carnival will give us an opportunity to present not only youth in sports, but the nation's

image of Mexico. The Pan American Games will be an important factor for the future growth and development of better international relations through sports in our country."

The Motto of the Pan American Games is: "America: Espirito, Sport, Fraternite," which means, "The American Spirit of Friendship through Sports."

Besides presenting an outstanding sports spectacle, it is hoped that the Seventh Pan American Games will realize their full potential as an instrument of friendship and understanding in the Americas, that they will truly foster "The American Spirit of friendship through Sports."